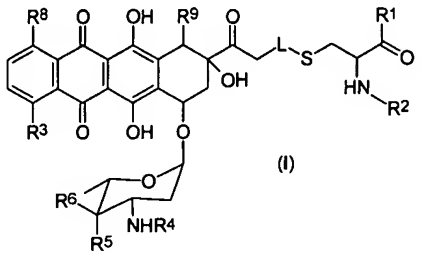
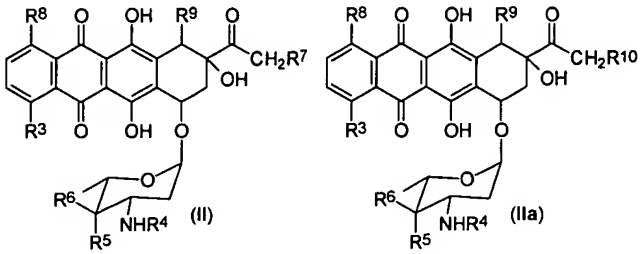
AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently amended) Method for the preparation of a compound of formula (**I**) or pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof and intermediates thereof, comprising the steps of:



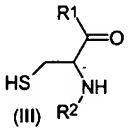
(I)

a) halogenating a compound of formula (**II**), resulting in compound of formula (**IIa**),



(II) (IIa)

b) reacting a compound of formula (**IIa**) at its 14 position with the thiol moiety of a peptide of formula (**III**), optionally in the presence of a suitable linker, to obtain said compound of formula (**I**),

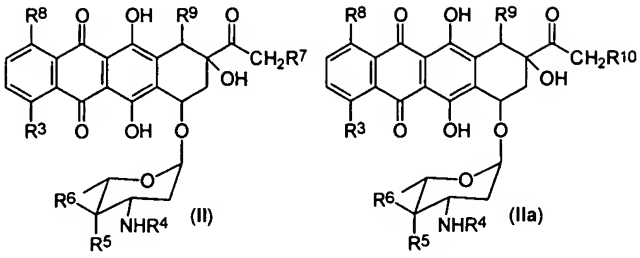


(III)

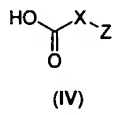
wherein R^1 represents OH, NH_2 or NH-peptide; R^2 represents H or –CO-peptide; R^3 represents OCH_3, OH or H; R^4 represents H, or $COCF_3$; R^5 represents OH, O-tetrahydropyranyl or H; R^6 represents OH or H; R^7 represents H, OH, $OCO(CH_2)_3CH_3$ or $OCOCH(OC_2H_5)_2$; R^8 represents OH or H; R^9 represents OH or H; R^{10} represents a halogen and S is either directly linked to C or linked through L, wherein L is ~~an optionala~~ suitable linker arm.

2. (Currently amended) Method according to claim 1, further comprising the step of

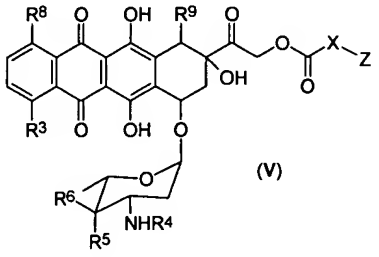
a) halogenating the compound of formula (**II**), resulting in compound of formula (**IIa**),



b) reacting said compound of formula (**IIa**) at its 14 position with a linker of formula (**IV**) to obtain compound of formula (**V**), wherein Z is a functional group able to react with a thiol, and X represents a bivalent radical selected from the group ~~comprising~~ consisting of an alkyl, an aralkyl, an alkenyl, a cycloalkyl and an aryl radical

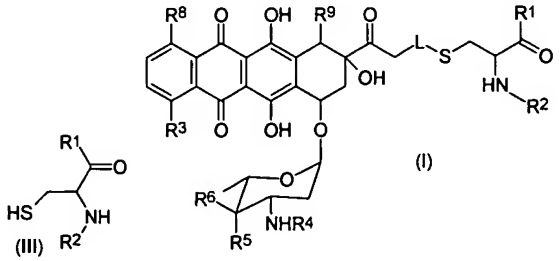


(IV)



(V)

c) coupling said compound of formula (**V**) with the thiol moiety of a peptide of formula (**III**) to obtain compound of formula (**I**),

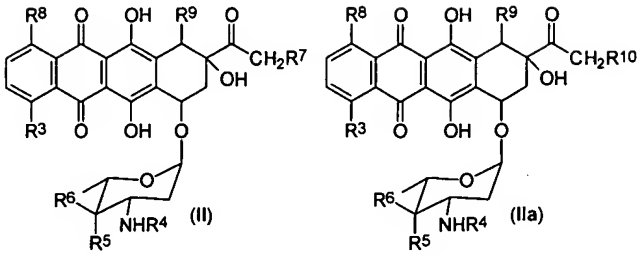


(III) (I)

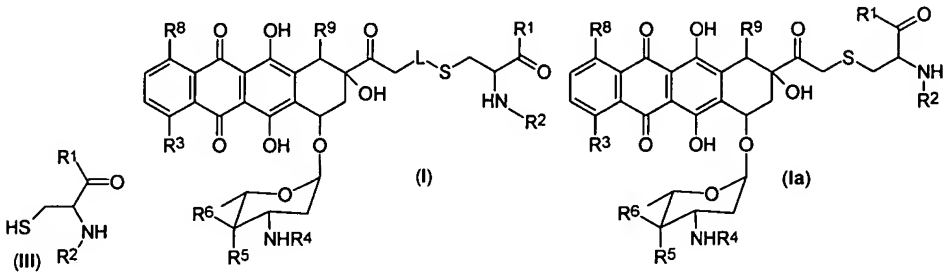
wherein L represents a linker arm of the formula R–X-Y-, wherein R is –O-C(=O)-, Y is the product of Z upon reaction with the thiol moiety of compound of formula (**III**) and X, R^1, R^2, R^3, R^4, R^5, R^6, R^8, R^9 and R^{10} have the same meaning as that defined above.

3. (Original) Method according to claim 1, comprising the step of

a) halogenating the compound of formula (**II**), resulting in compound of formula (**IIa**),



b) reacting the compound of formula (**IIa**) at its 14 position with the thiol moiety of a peptide of formula (**III**) to obtain compound of formula (**I**)



wherein R^1, R^2, R^3, R^4, R^5, R^6, R^8, R^9 and R^{10} have the same meaning as that defined above and –L- is absent as represented by formula (**Ia**).

4. (Currently amended) Method according to ~~any of claims 1 to 3~~claim 1, wherein R^{10} is Br.

5. (Currently amended) Method according to ~~any of claims 1 to 4~~claim 1, wherein the halogenation step is done simultaneously with a ketalization step of the 13-ketone of the compound of formula (**II**) in the presence of a suitable alcohol.

6. (Original) Method according to claim 5, wherein the ketalization step is performed in the presence of a suitable orthoester.

7. (Currently amended) Method according to claim 2, wherein the functional group Z is selected from the group ~~comprising~~ consisting of α,β-unsaturated carbonyl, carboxy, carbamoyl and imidyl radical.

8. (Original) Method according to claim 7, wherein the functional group Z is a maleimidyl radical.

9. (Original) Method according to claim 2, wherein said linker of formula (**IV**) is maleimidobutyric acid.

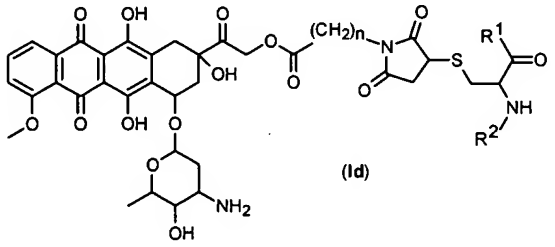
10. (Currently amended) Method according to ~~any of claims 1 to 9~~claim 1, wherein the compound of formula (**II**) is daunorubicin, carminomycin or idarubicin.

11. (Original) Method according to claim 10, wherein the compound of formula (**II**) is daunorubicin.

12. (Currently amended) Method according to ~~any of claims 1 to 11~~claim 1, wherein the peptide of formula (**III**) contains from 1 to 100 amino acids.

13. (Original) Method according to claim 12, wherein the peptide of formula (**III**) contains from 10 to 30 amino acids.

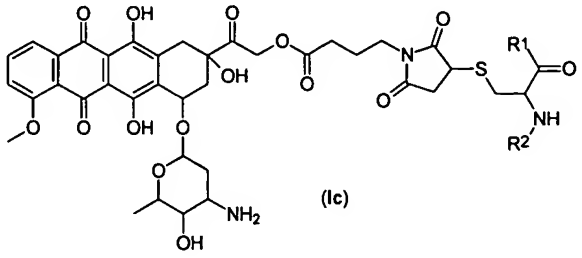
14. (Currently amended) Method according to ~~any of claims 1 to 2 and 4 to 13~~claim 1, wherein the compound of formula (I) is a compound of formula (Id)



(Id)

wherein R^1 and R^2 have the same meaning as that defined above and n is a number ranging from 2 to 10.

15. (Original) Method according to claim 14, wherein the compound of formula (Id) is a compound of formula (1c)



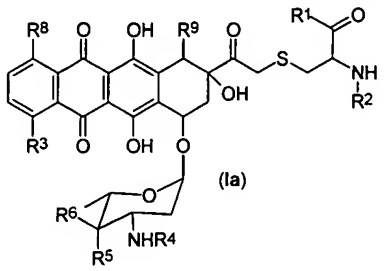
(Ic)

wherein R^1 and R^2 have the same meaning as that defined above.

16. (Currently amended) ~~Intermediates~~ An intermediate obtained by the methods of ~~claims 1 to 15~~claim 1.

17. (Currently amended) ~~Compounds~~ A compound obtained by the methods of ~~claims 1 to 15~~claim 1.

18. (Currently amended) ~~Compounds~~ A compound having the formula (**Ia**),



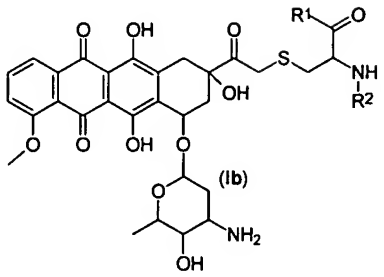
(Ia)

wherein R^3 represents OCH_3, OH or H, R^4 represents H or $COCF_3$, R^5 represents OH, O-tetrahydropyranyl or H, R^6 represents OH or H, R^8 represents OH or H, R^9 represents OH or H; R^1 represents OH, NH_2 or NH-peptide and R^2 represents H or –CO-peptide.

19. (Currently amended) ~~Compounds~~ The compound according to claim 18, wherein R^3 represents OCH_3, OH or H, R^4 represents H, R^5 represents OH, O-tetrahydropyranyl or H, R^6 represents OH or H, R^8 is H, R^9 is H; R^1 represents OH, NH_2 or NH-peptide and R^2 represents H or –CO-peptide.

20. (Currently amended) ~~Compounds~~ The compound according to claim 19, wherein R^3 represents OCH_3, OH or H, R^4 is H, R^5 is OH, R^6 is H, R^8 is H, R^9 is H; R^1 represents OH, NH_2 or NH-peptide and R^2 represents H or –CO-peptide.

21. (Currently amended) ~~Compounds~~ The compound according to claim 20, having the formula (**Ib**),



wherein R^1 and R^2 have the same meaning as that defined above.

22. (Currently amended) ~~Compound~~ The compound according to ~~any of claims 17 to 21~~claim 18, wherein said compound contains from 1 to 100 amino acids.

23. (Currently amended) ~~Compound~~ The compound according to claim 22, wherein said compound contains from 10 to 30 amino acids.

24. (Currently amended) ~~Pharmaceutical~~ A pharmaceutical composition comprising a pharmaceutical carrier and a therapeutically effective amount of a compound according to ~~any of claims 17 to 23~~claim 18.

25. (Canceled) Compound according to any of claims 17 to 23, for use as a medicament.

26. (Currently amended) A method of treating a tumor which comprises administering a therapeutically effective amount of a~~Use of~~ compound according to ~~any of claims 17 to 23, as an antitumor agent~~claim 18 to a patient in need thereof.

27. (Currently amended) ~~Use of~~A method of preparing an antitumor agent which comprises using the compound according to claim 16~~,~~ as a precursor ~~in the preparation of antitumor agent~~.

28. (Currently amended) ~~Use of~~A method of treating cancer which comprises administering a therapeutically effective amount of the compound according to ~~any of claims 17 to 23~~claim 17 to a patient in need thereof~~, for the preparation of a medicament for the treatment of cancer~~.